**कृषि मंत्री और खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र):** (क) सरकार चीनी के लिए कोई समर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित नहीं करती है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

**Production of sugar and payment of arrears to sugarcane growers**

3727. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the production of sugar during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the reasons for lower production of sugar; and

(c) the amount of arrears payable to the farmers, year-wise; State-wise and the steps taken to clear the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The production of sugar during the seasons 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was as under:

| Sugar Year (Oct. to Sept.) | Production (lakh tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 146.43 |
| 1995-96 (Prov) | 164.29 |
| 1996-97. (upto 31st March 1997) | 106.05 |

(b) The reason for the shortfall in sugar production can primarily be attributed to delayed commencement of crushing operations during the current season 1996-97 on account of prolonged crushing during the last 1995-96 sugar season.

(c) A statement showing State-wise position of Cane Price Arrears payable to the farmers during the year 1996-97, 1995-96, 1994-95 and earlier seasons as on 15.3.1997 is Annexed. (*See below*)

The responsibility of ensuring timely payments of cane price dues lies with the State Governments which have the necessary powers and field organisations to enforece such payments.

The Central Government, on its part, has taken measures for improving the financial position of sugar factories to enable them to pay the farmers' dues, such as grant of incentives for late crushing during 1994-95 & 1995-96 seasons, creation of buffer stock, permission for export of sugar etc.

**Statement**

*State-wise position of cane price arrears payable to the farmers during the year 1996-97, 1995-96 and 1994-95 & earlier seasons as on 15.3.97.*

(Figures in lakh Rs.)

| Sl. No. | State | Cane price arrears | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1996-97 | 1995-96 | 1994-95 & earlier |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5. |
| 1. | PUNJAB | 11073.35 | 947.64 | 0.00 |
| 2. | HARYANA | 9346.38 | 670.48 | 6.20 |
| 3. | RAJASTHAN | 459.69 | 168.80 | 0.00 |
| 4. | UTTAR PRADESH | 38211.67 | 13073.21 | 544.65 |
| 5. | MADHYA PRADESH | 2392.30 | 45.20 | 0.77 |
| 6. | GUJARAT | 2564.76 | 95.76 | 0.00 |
| 7. | MAHARASHTRA | 7713.44 | 1511.47 | 48.75 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | BIHAR | 8913.79 | 1655.51 | 312.39 |
| 9. | ASSAM | 40.07 | 9.66 | 0.82 |
| 10. | ANDHRA PRADESH | 7533.34 | 325.30 | 0.90 |
| 11. | KARNATAKA | 9396.72 | 2734.11 | 1571.31 |
| 12. | TAMIL NADU | 7584.88 | 0.64 | 1.60 |
| 13. | KERALA | 1.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 14. | ORISSA | 636.47 | 51.77 | 0.07 |
| 15. | WEST BENGAL | 261.95 | 10.12 | 1.37 |
| 16. | NAGALAND | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17. | PONDICHERRY | 269.03 | 0.00 | 2.66 |
| 18. | GOA | 197.93 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | ALL INDIA | 106596.84 | 21299.67 | 2491.49 |

**Misuse of FCI-Godowns for black marketing of essential commodities**

3728. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Food Corporation of India godowns in the country are being misused for black marketing of essential commodities;

(b) whether FCI godowns are subjected to regular Government raids;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government does not conduct raids on the FCI godowns. However, surprise inspections are conducted by the Government on the basis of complaints.

**Revised Procurement Price of Wheat**

3729. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement price of wheat has recently been revised upwards by Government to give relief to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The Government have declared a Central bonus or Rs. 60/- per quintal in addition to the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 415/- per quintal for wheat procured for Central Pool during 1997-98 Rabi Marketing Season to maximise procurement. Bonus is payable on wheat offered for sale to the procurement agencies during the period from 17.3.97 to 10.6.97. The MSP of wheat in the previous Rabi Marketing Season i.e. 1996-97 was Rs. 380/- per quintal.

**Production, Consumption and Import of Wheat**

3730. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the wheat production per-annum in the country for the last three years;

(b) the consumption of wheat per-annum in the country during the above period;